

Irish Examiner

NEWS

ACTOR HAS FINAL SAY ON NIDGE

Tom Vaughan Lawlor on 'unforgettable journey': 3



LIFE/STYLE

The Katie Taylor effect

Women of all ages are taking up boxing to get fit and relieve stress: 15



SPORT

WHELAN BACK IN THE FRAME

Midfielder making remarkable recovery for Euro qualifier: 19



Tuesday, November 11, 2014

www.irishexaminer.com

No. 59,818

€2.00 £1

AIB gets a 'free pass' on €21bn it owes us

EU puts no legal requirement on bank to repay bailout from taxpayer

by John Walsh Business Editor

for €4.8bn in state aid. Moreover, the finance minister retains a 14% stake in Bank of Ireland which is valued at over €1bn. According to the EU restructuring document: 'Ireland commits that AIB will repay the state aid prior to the end of the restructuring period via the payment of dividends or other means, in such amount equal to the surplus regulatory capital above the minimum CET1 ratio (on a Basel III fully implemented basis) as set by the Central Bank (plus a buffer of 1-4%) at 31 December 2016.'

AIB released its trading update yesterday which said that it continues to be profitable and is generating cash. New lending is up 40% this year compared with last year, in part because of reduced by €4.6bn, and mortgage arrears are down by 1%. Moreover, AIB said it was in continued discussions with the Department of Finance about a partial sale of the bank's CoCo bonds.

Market sources say that the Department of Finance and AIB will release a plan for its preference shares, CoCo notes and part privatisation next March following the release of its 2014 results.

Fianna Fáil finance spokesman Michael McGrath said that it was imperative that AIB repay as much of the €21bn it owed the taxpayer as possible. He urged the finance minister to retain a majority stake in the bank in order to take advantage of the recovering economy and maximise shareholder value for the taxpayer.

AIB declined to comment on the basis that discussions with the Department of Finance about its return to private ownership were ongoing.

Bank of Ireland was ordered to sell its life assurance company, New Ireland, and its mortgage platform ICs as well as a number of smaller businesses in order to repay state aid.

Bank of Ireland was subsequently allowed to keep New Ireland following an appeal although it has so far paid the Government €6bn



Michael Noonan

O'Riordan sang in cell after alleged assault



Dolores O'Riordan: The Cranberries singer, who was arrested at Shannon Airport after allegedly becoming disruptive on board a flight from New York, was singing and shouting in her jail cell at Shannon Garda station before being assessed at University Hospital Limerick. Picture: Getty

by Gordon Deegan and Jimmy Woolfe

The star's chorus of song from the jail cell took place after she was arrested at Shannon Airport shortly before 5am after an incident on board an Aer Lingus flight from New York that had 118 people on board.

Flight EI-110 from JFK was on the descent into Shannon when it is alleged that the musician became disruptive in the business class area of the plane.

It is alleged she stamped on an air hostess's foot during the incident. The local GP assessed the Limerick woman shortly after 9am and recommended that she be further assessed at University Hospital Limerick.

The male Garda was not injured but an ambulance was called for the Galway city-based air hostess who was treated at University Hospital Limerick for a bruised foot.

Initially, it was thought that the hostess had sustained a fractured foot. However, an X-ray found just bruising.

Yesterday, the air hostess made a statement to Garda in relation to the incident. The 43-year-old was released from Garda custody to her mother at University Hospital Limerick.

Ms O'Riordan spends most of her time in the US and it is understood that she is back in Ireland for 14 days.

Garda hope to interview her on the allegations later this week or next week and the interview will form part of a file to go forward to the DPP.

Originally from Limerick, the distinctive singer is a multi award-winning musician who became lead singer of the Cranberries when she was 18. The Cranberries went on to sell tens of millions of records.

Ms O'Riordan, who is married with three children, spoke last year for the first time about how she was sexually abused as a child and how it led to anorexia, depression and a breakdown.

Following months of negotiations and a tender process, the NRA has now confirmed that it has awarded the estimated €2m annual Jack Lynch Tunnel operational and maintenance contract to Egis Road and Tunnel Operation Ireland for a minimum of six years from next February.

The Jack Lynch Tunnel is set to be 'privatised' within months, once again raising fears of a toll being placed on the Cork tunnel.

Toll fears for Cork tunnel after €12m deal

by Eoin English

The Jack Lynch Tunnel is set to be 'privatised' within months, once again raising fears of a toll being placed on the Cork tunnel.

In a deal believed to be worth up to €12m, the management of the tunnel, which has been maintained by the city council since it opened to traffic in 1999, will be outsourced to Egis Road and Tunnel Operation Ireland, the company which manages Dublin's tolled Port Tunnel.

It will become solely responsible for managing, maintaining and repairing the tunnel under the River Lee from February 20, it emerged last night. Up to 70,000 vehicles per day use the tunnel Monday to Friday at present.

Fianna Fáil Cllr Terry Shannon described it as the effective 'privatisation' of the tunnel, and called for a clear statement from Transport Minister Paschal Donohoe that the Jack Lynch Tunnel will remain toll free.

The National Roads Authority's plans to outsource the tunnel management must first be entered in 2012 in a bid to achieve savings for the State by bundling the contract into a single contract along with the operation and maintenance of Dublin's Port Tunnel.

Following months of negotiations and a tender process, the NRA has now confirmed that it has awarded the estimated €2m annual Jack Lynch Tunnel operational and maintenance contract to Egis Road and Tunnel Operation Ireland for a minimum of six years from next February.

Paramilitary punishment attacks on over 500 children 'must be examined'

by Cormac O'Keefe and Mary Regan

Paramilitary punishment attacks on more than 500 children - including 250 by republicans - should be included in a proposed North-South commission of investigation into child sexual abuse by IRA members.

Queens University academic Liam Kennedy also said the hierarchy of Sinn Féin - including Gerry Adams and Martin Mc Guinness - "absolutely" knew about the attacks. Fianna Fáil leader Michael Martin is expected to push the issue at a special Dáil debate tomorrow on issues raised by the Belfast woman, Maria Cahill, who said she was raped at age 16 and subjected to an IRA interrogation.

In a report, *They Shoot Children, Don't They?* Prof Kennedy said more than 500 children were physically and psychologically abused by paramilitaries between 1990 and 2013, including 251 attacks by republicans. According to PSNI statistics, this involved 73 reported shootings and 178



Michael Martin: Calling for North-South investigation.

reported beatings, mainly by the Provisional IRA. This breaks down to 66 shootings and 143 beatings of 16-17 year olds and seven shootings and 35 beatings of children aged under 16.

Prof Kennedy said many children were forced to move into the South. He called on children's attacks on children and claimed Sinn Féin officers were used as co-ordinating centres for punishment.

He said the larger context of child abuse should be included in the investigation. "We are talking about more than 500 other cases of very serious physical and psychological abuse. Absolutely, they should be incorporated and the remit should be expanded."

Mr Martin is expected to call for a "two-module" investigation in tomorrow's debate, with the first strand focusing on what his party describes as "the cover-up and movement of child sex offenders from the North into the South", with a second strand looking at "the systematic punishment beatings of children who were then forced to move into the South".

He will propose this is headed up by a dual co-chairperson role of a judicial figure from both North and South. It would be independent to protect the integrity of its investigations.

Prof Kennedy criticised Mr Adams's use of the words "rough justice" to describe the actions of the IRA. "Given the severity of these beatings and shootings and particularly given we are talking about children, to use the term rough justice is a euphemism too far.

It is neither tough in any meaningful sense nor is it justice. It is called on Sinn Féin's TDs to break the "military-style discipline" on party decisions.

Irish troops may be sent to fight ebola

by Mary Regan Political Editor

Irish troops may be sent to ebola-hit countries in west Africa under plans to be considered by Cabinet today. Defence Minister Simon Conway is to bring an information note to Cabinet with an update of the outbreak which will outline how Defence Forces personnel

might play a role in helping to halt the spread of the disease. It's thought the number of troops would be very small and deployment would be voluntary. The idea of sending a mission to Sierra Leone was raised at the Government emergency planning meeting but was shot down by Health Minister Leo Varadkar.

2 for 1 from €89. Get one bargain, get a second one free.

PLUS €15 EYE TEST. Valid for one test booked on or before 30 November 2014 at discounted price of only €15. Present voucher at time of test. Cannot be exchanged for cash, used with other vouchers or redeemed by customers already entitled to a free PSEI or Medical Card eye test funded by the Department of Social Protection or HSE. One per person. CODE 6671

Proud sponsor of GAA Hawk-Eye. Need an eye test? Visit specsavers.ie or check the Golden Pages for your nearest store. Specsavers logo.